

derided by geopoliticians, now have muscle." Why? Because of NATO's unified, unwavering action in Kosovo.

Would-be aggressors everywhere have this message ringing in their ears—don't do it.

If you take aggressive, hostile action against others, you may pay a very steep price indeed.

Further, we have learned that our awesome military might—coupled with the will to use it—provides a very real strategic advantage.

Clearly, the threat of a NATO ground invasion had a decisive impact on the butcher of Belgrade—Slobodan Milosevic.

Not surprisingly, Milosevic capitulated as President Clinton consulted his military advisers on options for ground troops.

Like the cowardly bully who picks on the weak and defenseless, Milosevic caved in when he knew there would be no escape.

President Clinton's resolve on the Kosovo crisis has enhanced the credibility of the United States and the Atlantic Alliance throughout the world.

We make good on our word.

American credibility is a strategic asset of the highest order and well worth fighting for.

Finally, let me state our efforts to secure peace in the Balkans are not over.

Milosevic has properly been branded as a war criminal by the International War Crimes Tribunal at The Hague.

And he must be held accountable.

Our policy goal now should be his removal from office.

But we should encourage the Serbs to remove Milosevic and the brutal leaders who have caused this unnecessary suffering and misery.

Serbia also must be clear about this: so long as Milosevic remains in power, it will not receive financial assistance for its reconstruction.

Mr. Speaker, like some of my colleagues who have traveled to Macedonia and Albania, I have seen the devastating consequences of genocide.

These images have been seared into my memory forever.

We will not always be able to intervene to stop injustice wherever it occurs.

But we have laid down a powerful precedent in Kosovo.

Our credibility has been enhanced, NATO has been strengthened, a brutal dictator has been repulsed, and the cause for human rights has been advanced.

If those are not good causes, I frankly don't know what are.

I urge my colleagues to adopt the Taylor and Skelton amendments and reject the Souder and Fowler amendments.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER).

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

I wanted to respond to one allegation we heard here on the floor today, that what is in the bill under the chairman's language would cut the funds and pull back peacekeepers, once they are in place. I believe such comments are disingenuous and the allegation is false.

The emergency supplemental that we passed here on the floor is not only for 1999, but also for the 2000 cycle. So as

we move through the 1999 cycle and we finish, and now we begin the October 1, the funds are not cut off. Yes, there were funds there through the emergency supplemental, but those funds were really used to pay the accounts and pay for the weapons and ammo and other things for the operations.

Can they reprogram? Yes. But what we would like and prefer is for regular order. That would be for the President to offer the amendment, a budgetary amendment in 2000, and to do that with offsets that are nondefense offsets and do not spend the social security surplus.

That is the obligation the Republican Congress has taken up: for every dollar of surplus, we will not spend it. That is what we request of the President.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

Mr. KIND. I thank the ranking member for yielding time to me.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Skelton amendment, and would strongly encourage my colleagues to oppose the Fowler and Souder amendments. I believe those are the wrong amendments at the wrong time when we are on the brink of peace in the Balkans. I believe that the NATO policy in Kosovo has been the right policy for the right reasons at the right time.

There were two overriding concerns that got the NATO democracies involved in the Balkans.

One of these, and not least of which, was the importance of trying to contain the conflict so it did not spread into other countries and ultimately result in much greater cost and greater sacrifice to the western democracies later.

But the overriding one, Mr. Chairman, was the humanitarian and moral concerns involved in trying to help the Kosovar families and end the atrocities.

We were reminded by Elie Wiesel what this was all about. When he was asked about the NATO air strike campaign in the Balkans, he responded, listen, the only miserable consolation the people in the concentration camps had during the Second World War was the belief that if the western democracies knew what was taking place, they would do everything in their power to try to stop it, bomb the rail lines and the crematoriums.

Unfortunately, history later showed that the western leaders did know, but did not take any action. This time it is different. This time the western democracies do know what is going on, they are taking action, they are intervening. This time, he said, we are on the right side of history.

Mr. Chairman, we woke up this morning with the news that the first Serb troops are being withdrawn from Kosovo. The policy is working. I think credit should be given where credit is due. It was through the perseverance and unity of all 19 democratic nations

of NATO that forced Milosevic to capitulate and end the atrocities in Kosovo.

Now we are at the dawn of a new era of peace in the Balkans. Let us hope it is a peace that sees the eventual removal of Milosevic from power, that sees true democratic reforms take place so the Balkan countries can eventually join the European Union, the community of democratic nations, and perhaps even the NATO alliance itself.

A pipe dream? An illusion? I do not think so. Who among us could have predicted that within 10 short years, some of the most repressive Communist regimes in all of Europe would be today flourishing democracies, members of the European Union and NATO itself?

The same can happen in the Balkans. Let us give this policy of peace in the Balkans a chance.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Chairman, NATO has achieved not a victory but a cessation of war, for now. It is important that Congress maintain a tight rein on the administration's policy in the Balkans through not providing a blanket authorization past September 30, which the Skelton amendment would effect.

The agreement that was signed is significant for what it does not say. The KLA was not a party to the agreement. The KLA is not even mentioned in the text of the agreement. The agreement does not limit the types and quantities of weapons the KLA must turn in. The agreement does not require the KLA to turn in rifles and machine guns purchased in Albania and on the black market.

Keep in mind the KLA's goal is still an independent Kosovo. They will not accept NATO's new goal of autonomy. They will return to the province well armed and well protected.

The agreement also provides for Yugoslav forces to be allowed back into Kosovo, but it does not say when. This agreement may have established a fertile ground for more war. This agreement could exchange the ill-fated and ill-advised quest for a greater Serbia for an ill-fated and ill-advised quest for a greater Albania.

It is urgent that Congress keep control in such an undefined and unpredictable environment created by an undefined agreement. Our young men and women could end up trapped in a ground war in Kosovo. Our young men and women could end up in a circular firing squad between an armed KLA and Serbs, Serb units trying to get back into the province.

Only congressional oversight will keep America from getting deeper and deeper into a reignited war between the KLA and Serbia. That is why I am going to support the Fowler and Souder amendments.

The administration already has funds appropriated for peacekeepers and